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# Security Council

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## Letter dated 5 January 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that the Government of Lebanon hereby requests the Security Council to extend the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), which expires on 31 January 2001, for a further interim period of six months, on the basis of the provisions of Security Council resolutions 425 (1978) and 426 (1978) and in view of the fact that the continued deployment of UNIFIL is necessary in order for it to complete the mandate with which it was entrusted, especially in the light of the daily violations perpetrated by Israel on land and by air and sea. Such violations constitute a continuous act of aggression against Lebanese sovereignty and are in contravention of Security Council resolution 425 (1978). The deployment of UNIFIL also represents the international community's commitment to the restoration of Lebanon's full sovereignty and territorial integrity, as set out in resolutions 425 (1978) and 426 (1978).

Lebanon hereby calls for the release of those who have been detained for years in Israeli prisons without due process of law, in defiance of the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and related Protocols. It further urgently demands the removal of the thousands of mines left on Lebanese territory by the Israeli occupation, which continue to cause death and injury to civilians and restrict their ability to work and move about freely.

The Lebanese Government avails itself of this opportunity to pay tribute to the UNIFIL Command, administrators, troops and troop-contributing countries for their noble efforts and sacrifices made in the cause of the implementation of its mandate.

Furthermore, the Government of Lebanon wishes to express to you its deep appreciation for your tireless efforts, which contribute to the valuable presence of UNIFIL in southern Lebanon.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Selim **Tadmoury**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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